



**The Tennessee Department of Labor
& Workforce Development
Nashville, TN
615-741-2257**

NEWS RELEASE

James Neeley
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 10, 2003

Milissa Reiersen
Communications Director

NASHVILLE -- The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development today announced that the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) has approved a petition for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Best Manufacturing. The petition covers all workers of the company in Johnson City, Tennessee whose jobs were affected by foreign trade.

Trade Adjustment Assistance is a program administered in Tennessee for the U.S. Department of Labor by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The program offers assistance to workers whose jobs have been adversely affected by foreign competition. The certification by the USDOL applies to layoffs, which began on November 22, 2001, and will remain in effect until January 29, 2005, when the petition expires.

Under the provisions of the law, TAA allows for reemployment services and retraining while workers are receiving regular unemployment benefits. Workers who meet federal guidelines for timely enrollment in approved training may obtain benefits while enrolled in approved training after exhausting all regular unemployment insurance benefits. The program also provides allowances for attempting to secure new employment in other areas and relocating to the new place of employment. Specific instructions will be provided to affected workers through their local Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development office.

Claims for the assistance will be taken on Wednesday, March 12, 2003, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development office, located at 206 Highpoint Drive in Johnson City. The Department of Labor & Workforce Development has sent notices to former employees informing them when they are scheduled to report.

(03-011)

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities

El Departamento del Trabajo y Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.